[29th January 1929

proved action under section 214, Indian Penal Code, cannot be taken against those who screen the accused from discovery or who tamper with witnesses.

(*j*) The case has already been fully investigated and charged. The deputation of a special officer to enquire into it is unnecessary.

Economic condition.

Improvement of the economic condition of the backward classes in Madura and other districts.

* 1142 *Q.*—Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(*a*) to call for and lay on the table village economic survey statements in typical backward areas prepared by the resettlement staff of Madura, Ramnad, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and South Arcot districts; and

(*b*) to state what special steps have been taken by the Transferred and Reserved half of Government to improve the taxable capacity and economic condition of all poor thirty-rupee pattadars?

A.—(*a*) The Government do not propose to call for and lay on the table the statements referred to by the hon. Member.

(*b*) The Government do not make any distinction between thirty-rupee pattadars and others in the matter of any assistance or advice given by them and so no special steps have been taken by them for thirty-rupee pattadars. The activities of the Agricultural and Co-operative departments have a direct bearing on the improvement of the economic condition of the ryots. The activities of the Industrial Engineering section are of direct benefit to the agriculturists. The survey of cottage industries has also been initiated with a view, among other things, to devise measures for the introduction of part-time occupations for the agriculturists in the off season.

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda: "May I know why the Government do not propose to call for those statements?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks: "Before 1917, there were no such statements prepared by the resettlement staff. After that year, in accordance with the recommendations of this House, statements were prepared recording the economic condition of a few families in a few villages, although Government in ordering that preparation as an experimental measure were not sure that they would get any results of value thereby. The statements do not refer to backward areas as the question does, and it was thought that the expenditure incurred in printing and publishing them would not be proportionate to their possible value. That is the reason why we do not propose to publish them."

Irrigation

Constitution of Irrigation panchayats in Bhimavaram taluk, West Godavari.

* 1143 *Q.*—Mr. D. Narayana Raju: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Irrigation panchayats have been constituted in Bhimavaram taluk, West Godavari district; and

(b) whether Government will be pleased to place on the table the latest report on the working of the said Irrigation panchayats?

A.—(a) Twenty-four channels were under panchayat management in the Godavari Western delta in 1927–28. For the names of the channels, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Collector's report laid on the table in reply to clause (b).

(b) The latest report [a], i.e., the one for 1927–28, is laid on the table.

Withdrawal of the powers of Irrigation panchayats regarding distribution of water, etc.

*1144 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Irrigation panchayats when they were first constituted in 1921, were given full powers to regulate distribution of water let into the channels under their management, and were authorized to permit breaches and to shift the positions or alter the diameters of pipes as might be found necessary;

(b) whether Government are aware that, by reason of these wide powers of distributing water, the Irrigation panchayats were able to discharge their duties to the entire satisfaction of the ryots concerned;

(c) whether it is a fact that the panchayats have been recently deprived of their control over distribution, the Tahsildar, Bhimavaram, having in his F. Dis. No. 1187-Sup. of 1927 informed the panchayats that they should not permit breaches or in any way meddle with the pipes;

(d) if the answers to (a) and (c) be in the affirmative, what the reasons are for this change of policy; and

(e) whether Government have received any report that the Public Works Department and the Revenue Department subordinates are not favourably disposed towards the panchayat management of Irrigation channels?

A.—(a) The panchayats were constituted in 1917. Their powers were not well defined and in some cases they doubtless dealt with the channels in the manner suggested in the question.

(b) On the contrary cases of mismanagement and unsatisfactory distribution on the one hand and of unwillingness on the part of the panchayats to continue to work on the other were reported.

(c) The Government are unaware of the order of the Tahsildar, Bhimavaram. In 1926 and 1928 the Government issued certain conditions subject to which channels might be handed over to the management of panchayats. These conditions [b] are laid on the table.

(d) It has been found by actual experience that to allow ryots to breach the bunds, shift the positions of pipes and alter their diameters is a mistake and when codifying a definite set of conditions under which channels might be handed over to panchayat management the Government provided against damage to pipes, sluices, bunds, etc.

(e) No.

---

[a] Printed as Appendix XIII on pages 309–311 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix XIV on pages 311–313 infra.